

REMARKS

The Official Action cites a new primary reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,085,525 to George Bartosiak, et al.) and rejects Claims 2, 4, 11, 12, 15 and 18-21 as being unpatentable over the Bartosiak '525 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,512,748 to Charles M. Hanson; Claims 5-8 as being unpatentable over the Bartosiak '525 patent in view of the Hanson '748 patent and in further view of various tertiary references, such as U.S. Patent No. 4,778,985 to J. Everett Modisette, et al. (Claims 5, 7 and 8), U.S. Patent No. 3,680,001 to Thomas L. Paoli, et al. (Claim 6) and U.S. Patent No. 3,680,001 to Henry A. Frosch, et al. (Claims 9 and 13). The Official Action does confirm, however, that Claims 14, 16, 17 and 22 are allowable.

Although there is no agreement as to the grounds of rejection, independent Claims 11 and 18 have been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claims 14 and 22. As such, dependent Claims 14 and 22 have been canceled. Additionally, allowable dependent Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to be in independent form by including the recitations of independent Claim 11 from which they previously depended. As such, amended independent Claims 11 and 16-18, as well as the claims which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons that Claims 14, 16, 17 and 22 were previously indicated to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

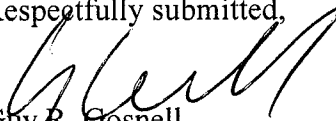
In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. We therefore respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

Appl. No.: 10/670,448
Filed: September 25, 2003
Amdt. dated 08/29/2008

therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit
Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Guy R. Gosnell
Registration No. 34,610

Customer No. 000067141
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

**ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF
THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON August 29, 2008 by Gwen Frickhoeffer.**

LEGAL02/30894895v1